

Quinton Sells, age 14, has won an Outstanding Boxer Award, was Gulf Association Silver Glove Champion, Texas State Silver Glove Champion, Regional Silver Glove Champion and National Silver Glove Champion all in one year, 1998. In addition to his physical prowess, Mr. Sells has been recognized by his peers for his intellect, having been voted Outstanding Student at Martin Luther King Middle School.

K'lon Spencer, age 13, has won 9 Outstanding Boxer awards. In 1997, Mr. Spencer was Gulf Association Silver Glove, Golden Glove and Junior Olympic Champion. The next year he was Texas State Silver Glove, Golden Glove and Junior Olympic Champion. That same year he also won the Junior National Golden Glove Championship.

Jordan Burton III, age 13, has won two Outstanding Boxer Awards. He was the Gulf Association Silver Glove, Golden Glove and Junior Olympic Champion in 1997. He is the Texas State Silver Glove, Golden Glove and Junior Olympic Champion for 1998.

Cymone Kearney, age 12, was Gulf Association Silver Glove Champion, Texas State Silver Glove Champion, Regional Silver Glove Champion and National Silver Glove Champion in 1998. Mr. Kearney is also the Junior National Olympic Champion.

Bryant Thomas, age 12, is the Gulf Association Golden Glove, Silver Glove and Junior Olympic Champion of 1998, the Texas State Golden Glove Champion and the runner-up National Silver Glove Champion of the same year.

These young men, whom we praise for their individual prowess, are also part of a team. The Beaumont Police Activities League provides a safe, supportive environment in which all young people are encouraged to succeed. The boxing team was started in September 1996. Since then, they have competed in more than 300 bouts with a team record of 176 wins and 142 losses. They are sanctioned by USA Boxing and have won 8 team championships. This gym alone has produced 5 National Champions, a credit to their coaching as much as individual talent. The coaches have volunteered their time and invested themselves wholeheartedly in the program. Coach Lee Wheeler went so far as to trade his Harley-Davidson motorcycle in order to purchase a van to transport the team across the country.

I applaud these six young men for their dedication, fortitude and spirit. I thank them for showing us the courage that exists within us all. And I wish them luck in all of their future endeavors both inside and outside the ring.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on Friday October 2, and missed Roll Call votes number 477, 478, and 479. Had I been present, I would have voted Yes on Roll Call 477, to approve the Journal of the previous day; I would have voted No on Roll Call 478 to recommit the Conference Report on H.R. 4101; and I would have voted Yes on Roll Call 479 to agree to the Con-

ference Report on H.R. 4101. I ask unanimous consent that my positions on these votes be so noted.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO HARRY AND NANCY E. ROTHROCK, JR., FOR THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on September 5, 1998, Harry and Nancy E. Rothrock, Jr., of High Point, North Carolina celebrated a special day in their lives—their Golden Wedding Anniversary. It is with great pride and personal interest that I congratulate them on this special occasion.

In this day and age when fewer couples can claim fifty years of marriage, Harry and Nancy Rothrock are the exception to the rule. For they have based their long lasting relationship on open communications, a personal commitment to one another, and genuine love. From 1948 to 1998, they experienced many ups and downs, and many trials and tribulations, but I know they would both say it has been well worth it.

Harry and Nancy met at High Point College in 1946 where they were active in many campus activities. Harry was a baseball and basketball star, while Nancy was the "May Day Queen" and a cheerleader. Rumor has it that it took Harry three attempts before Nancy would go out on a date with him, but, in the end, it was "love at first sight."

Their marriage has been complemented with four children—Nancy, Jr., Alan, John and Doug—and three grandchildren—Abbey, Darus, and Elizabeth. The family celebrated the anniversary with a private dinner and were joined by Nancy's sister, Mrs. Betsy (George S.) Bouldin.

Again, I want to send my sincerest congratulations and heart felt wishes to Harry and Nancy Rothrock on celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

#### DR. JON LARSON INAUGURATED

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Jon H. Larson, a distinguished educator who is joining our community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. On October 10, 1998, Dr. Larson will be inaugurated as the fifth president of the Luzerne County Community College, located in my hometown of Nanticoke.

Dr. Larson was most recently Vice-President for Administration and Dean of Institutional Services of the Frederick Community College in Frederick, Maryland. During his tenure at Frederick, he was also a research associate at the University of Maryland. Prior to that experience, Dr. Larson served in several administrative and teaching positions at Berkshire Community College in Massachusetts.

Dr. Larson had numerous successes in Maryland, having served as the founding co-

chair of the Maryland Community College Technology Council and the founding chair of the Maryland Community College Facilities Planners Council. He chaired a campaign that quadrupled capital funding for 18 colleges and was instrumental in the resource development and grant funding aspects of a \$34 million capital improvements program.

Always active in the community, Dr. Larson served in leadership capacity of the Kiwanis, Norwich University Club, and the Frederick County Chamber of Commerce. He also served as community representative for the Bio Whittaker Animal Care and Use Committee, chair of the Frederick County CETA Planning Council, and chair of the Lee, Massachusetts Planning Board.

Dr. Larson has been a member of the Society for College and University Planning, the AACC National Council for Research and Planning, and several other professional organizations. Since moving to Northeastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Larson has continued his community involvement by joining the Kirby Center Board of Directors and co-chairing the education committee of the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to join with the community in welcoming Dr. Larson and his wife, Judy, to Northeastern Pennsylvania. Since his recent arrival, Dr. Larson has already provided a clear vision for the mission of the Luzerne County Community College in the new millennium.

#### AFRICA SEEDS OF HOPE ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

#### HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 28, 1998*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mrs. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4283, the Africa Seeds of Hope Act of 1998.

There are important signs of human progress in Africa. Life expectancy has increased, the infant mortality rate decreased by nearly 50%, we have seen sharp increases in educational advancement. Despite these advances, however, hunger and poverty still remain worse in Africa than on any other continent in the world.

The Africa Seeds of Hope Act promotes sustainable growth and development in Sub-Saharan Africa while at the same time helping the agriculture community. This bill would also improve food security for children, women and needy households, and improve the agricultural productivity and incomes of the rural poor. Agriculture is the largest source of revenue in most Sub-Saharan African economies. It is safe to say, that unless the agricultural industries improve, many Sub-Saharan African countries will continue to economically deteriorate.

The Africa Seeds of Hope Act has been endorsed by over two-hundred agricultural and humanitarian organizations with experiences in Africa.

By dedicating resources aimed at agricultural research, financing rural area farms and food security, this bi-partisan legislation would work in tandem with our new trade initiatives

with Africa. The long-term partnerships that will be created because of this legislation will better enable the U.S. to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and allow us to design cost-effective techniques that can be used throughout our foreign aid programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Africa Seeds of Hope Act of 1998 provides substantial economic benefits to Sub-Saharan Africa and promotes American foreign interests. This bill has received bipartisan support in this Congress and is consistent with our current African foreign policy. I strongly urge my colleagues to support it.

#### HONORING THE STUDENTS OF COLD SPRING HARBOR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

##### HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Rachel Friedstein, Jessica Berenblum, Lauren Schulz, and Raina Tripp who placed second in their quest for the Bayer/National Science Foundation (NSF) Award for Community Innovation. Each of these students has received a \$3,000 savings bond and will be honored at a Capitol Hill Ceremony. We should also recognize the outstanding work of their coach, Mr. Jim Frank, whose leadership and guidance was instrumental to the students' success.

These Cold Spring Harbor Junior High School students conducted a comprehensive study of the long term damage caused by wearing backpacks that were excessively heavy. They concluded that 25–33 percent of adolescents already experience lower back pain and that overweight backpacks can exacerbate these problems leading to even more serious back conditions later in life. The students worked with physicians and chiropractors to identify risk factors and prevention methods.

In the fall, these four students began a program entitled "Light is Right" which seeks to inform their peers about the dangers associated with backpack misuse and strategies to avoid this problem. They will hold an assembly for new junior high school students and distribute brochures and stickers describing the problem. Moreover, they will work to create an Internet survey to conduct further research.

The creativity and ingenuity of these students should serve as a model to all of our schools and communities. It also shows that students can really make a difference in the lives of their peers by working with their school and the private sector. The award program, which is jointly run by the National Science Foundation and the Bayer Corporation, has adhered to this model of public-private interdependence. It is my hope that other schools throughout the New York area will look to this example and create similar programs. Most importantly, their work will enable other teenagers to lead healthier lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues join me in rising to honor these extraordinary students and their coach.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE HELLING STADIUM RENOVATION PROJECT

##### HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride I rise and give recognition to the people of Ellwood City on the occasion of the rededication of Helling Stadium. Under construction for the past year and a half, the new stadium will provide a state-of-the-art facility for the students who attend Lincoln High School. It will also provide a first class venue for the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League to use for playoff games in baseball, football, and track and field bringing more and more people from outside Lawrence County into Ellwood City.

In addition to having one of the premier football stadiums in western Pennsylvania the complex has added a six-lane regulation polyurethane running track as well as a new baseball field and concession stands. As a result of this renovation, Lincoln High School will finally be able to host track and field events. It is interesting to note that prior to the renovation the baseball stadium's lighting was passed down from storied Forbes Field in Pittsburgh.

The Fourth Congressional District has been home to many great professional athletes. Tony Dorsett, Joe Namath, Ty Law, and George Blanda to name a few. It is my belief that with a first-class facility like this, it may not be long before a new crop of future NFL stars come from Ellwood City.

Mr. Speaker, it is once again with great pride that I rise and urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the people of Ellwood City on this fabulous evening. Additionally, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my most sincere thanks to Brad Oviatt and the entire school board for the work they have done to guarantee the completion of this project. Good luck for the future and go Wolverines.

#### A TRIBUTE TO THE REVEREND BERNARD C. POITIER

##### HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Reverend Bernard C. Poitier for his many years of service to our community and to his church as an educator, family counselor, and community leader.

Rev. Poitier has been the owner and director of Poitier Funeral Home for the past 30 years and the Pastor of Saint Luke Cousin Memorial A.M.E. church for 18 years.

Pastor Poitier began his ministerial training at Mount Herman A.M.E. church under the guidance of Reverend C.E. Jenkins. He received his primary and secondary education from Dade County public schools, then went on to earn his Bachelor of Science degree from Bethune-Cookman College in 1963.

As pastor of Saint Luke Cousin Memorial A.M.E. Church, Rev. Poitier has inspired many to become personally involved in doing God's work. Guided by his commitment to inner city

youth, Rev. Poitier has organized numerous athletic events, fund raisers, and recreational activities designed to benefit those who are less fortunate.

Pastor Poitier is married to the former Barbara Riley and is the father of two sons, and two daughters. He is also the grandfather of two.

In honoring Rev. Poitier today, we honor the virtue, moral courage, and sacrifice which he has exhibited throughout his life. As an inspiration, strength, and a blessing to those whose lives are touched by his, he helps others understand the place of faith in their lives.

I know that my colleagues join with me and our entire community in extending our highest praise and congratulations to Rev. Bernard C. Poitier for his lifetime of service.

#### HONORING THE VERY REVEREND FATHER STEVAN STEPANOV FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERV- ICE TO ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN CHURCH IN ALIQUIPPA, PENN- SYLVANIA

##### HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, October 5, 1998*

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional individual, the Very Reverend Father Stevan Stepanov of Aliquippa, PA.

This year, Father Stevan celebrates the twenty-fifth anniversary of serving the Aliquippa parish and the thirty-fifth anniversary of his ordination into the Orthodox priesthood.

Born and educated in Yugoslavia, Father Stevan moved to this country with his family to begin his career as a Deacon to the Serbian Orthodox Diocese in America. He became a United States citizen, earned a Master's Degree at the University of Pittsburgh, and strove to be a good husband and father.

As the parish priest in Aliquippa, he quickly established himself as an outstanding priest and helped to build the reputation of Aliquippa as one of the finest, most active Serbian Orthodox communities in America. Father Stevan has maintained the spiritual vitality of the Orthodox church service. He has rejuvenated holiday traditions that are centuries old. He has served as teacher to generations of young and old parishioners. He founded the summer camp and served as advisor and supporter for its Sunday School, Youth Group, KCC, Church Choir, Junior Choir, Mother's Club, Men's Club, and other organizations.

Through these many years, Father Stevan has enjoyed the support and good counsel of his wife, Ana. Her strength, humor, and patience have allowed Father Stevan to devote the many hours and much energy to his work in the parish.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to commend Father Stevan for his service to the St. Elijah Serbian Church and the greater Aliquippa community and wish him many more years of good health and good work. He is a credit to his people and his vocation and an inspiration to all citizens of the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in recognizing the exemplary work of a truly extraordinary man.